

## SOUTH AMERICA.

With the pathetic and painful position in which the older ministers of the Toronto Conference were placed at its last session still fresh in our minds, and with the pleadings of young men to be given work in the vineyard still ringing in our ears, we are strongly impressed with the importance of holding up to the gaze of *THE MISSIONARY CAMPAIGNER'S* readers this "neglected continent"—a continent teeming with millions of Pagan Indians, with millions of natives under the control of Roman Catholicism in its most corrupt form, whose cities are modern Sodom, whose moral degradation is unparalleled; a continent more than sixty times as large as the United Kingdom, with a population of thirty-seven millions almost wholly unevangelized.

How dare Canadian Methodism, with her Gospel light, her education, and all her wealth, complacently fold her hands and cry to those who are willing "to spend and be spent" in His service: Peace, peace, we have nothing for you to do! How dare she wash her hands of men whom God has called? How can our beloved ministry rest until it has led every member of the flock God has given it to consecrate himself, his silver and his gold to the Master's work?

South America, with its ten republics and the colonies of British, Dutch, and French Guiana, includes representatives of almost every race and language, from the degraded Fuegians of Cape Horn, who, when discovered, had drifted so far from Old World traditions that they retained no word for God, and the Indian tribes scattered on the Pampas plains or among the forests of the Amazons, to the Anglo-Saxon and Latin leaders of civilization in the free republics. The negroes and half-castes of the North and Central States, with the Mestizoes (a mixed race of Spanish, or Portuguese, and Indian blood), are numbered by millions, while the imported Chinese coolie classes, and foreigners from almost every country under heaven, drawn hither by the fabled silver wealth of Ecuador, Peru and the Argentine, complete the tale. Roman Catholicism has always dominated South America, churches and priests abound, nearly the whole country groans under the tyranny of a priesthood which, in its highest forms, is unilluminated by, and incompetent to preach, the Gospel of God's free gift, and in its lowest is proverbially and "habitually drunken, extortionate and ignorant." A large proportion of the population can neither read nor write, and very few know anything about the Bible. There is wide-spread deism among the men, among the women cringing superstition, they are a sad people, practically without God and without hope. The Gospel is the pressing need of South America to day, "for it is the power of God unto salvation unto everyone that believeth." Its evangelization must come through Protestant missions, for the errors of Romanism are too deep-seated to allow a reasonable hope of any radical improvement for ages to come. This is not a lack of charity, liberality must not be confounded with indifference to what is taught and practiced.

Omitting the Christian Churches in the Guianas, monuments of Moravian zeal and sacrifice, and the scattered centres on the Atlantic borders of Brazil, this continent is almost untouched by aggressive Protestant missionary effort.

"Venezuela, more than nine times as large as England and Wales, with a population of 2,234,385 men and women, has but one missionary.

"Columbia, more than three times as large as all Japan,

has over 4,000,000 people, and only three missionary stations of the American Presbyterian Church.

"Ecuador, called after the Equator, on which it lies, has no missionary, and never has had. Quito, its capital, the highest city in the world, with 30,000 souls; Guayaquil, its principal commercial centre, and all its 1,220,000 inhabitants are wholly unevangelized as yet—unless ceremonial can save, and the wafer-god be Divine.

"Peru, with its 3,000,000 people, its 650 schools, its magnificent railways, well-equipped army and navy, and world-famed products of bark, silver and guano, has but twelve missionaries within its borders.

"Bolivia, an enormous inland State, modelled, like all the South American republics, on the constitution of the U.S.A., with its President—elected every four years—its Congress, universal suffrage, and 2,200,000 souls, has received one or two passing visits from itinerant colporteurs of the noble American Bible Society, but has no resident missionary, and never has had.

"Brazil, which alone is larger than the whole United States, has 14,000,000 people, of whom not more than 2,000,000 can possibly hear the Gospel from Protestant missionaries there working, leaving 12,000,000 in Brazil only, wholly unevangelized.

"Chili is foremost of all the republics in intelligence and enterprise. She possesses nearly 13,000 miles of telegraphic lines, and nearly 1,000 elementary schools. Its population is 3,300,000, including 500,000 Indians, scattered through a beautiful country, whose climate is one of the finest in the world. The entire staff of workers in Chili is about sixty-one.

"The Argentine and Patagonia, now reckoned one republic, has a population of 4,000,000. Thousands of Europeans have settled on its prairie ranches, but the bulk of the population is Indian and half-caste, three out of the four millions being non-European. To reach this host there are about sixty-five missionaries.

"Paraguay, about the size of Great Britain, lies between the Argentine and Brazil. Its population has been greatly reduced by internal wars, and is now about 400,000. There is one missionary to eighty thousand people.

"Uruguay, the smallest of the South American States, has a population of 750,000, and but two mission stations."

These facts make their own appeal. May the Lord hasten the day when the people of South America shall have that freedom which the Son alone can give.

Burdened with the "appalling spiritual condition" of this land, a band of praying men met some fifteen months ago, in the city of Toronto, to organize what is now known as the South American Evangelical Mission Society whose objects are: First, "To take part in the work of evangelizing South America (this mission confines itself solely to work on that continent); second, to try to deepen the interest of Christians at home in the needs of that country."

Of its inception and methods of work we quote from the April issue of *The South American Messenger*: "The S.A.E.M. is a child of necessity, and this is how it came into existence: For some time past several friends have been in the habit of meeting on Saturday for prayer and preparation in view of the work of the Lord's Day. Our attention was called to a little book recently published, entitled, 'South America, the Neglected Continent' (F. Revell Co., Toronto and Chicago), giving an account of the visit of Rev. G. C. Grubb and party to that country, and telling of the appalling spiritual condition of South America. On enquiry we found that North America, with all its